

# DPS Chaparral



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## DPS targets sex offender fugitives

DPS Special Crimes Service has developed a new initiative to help track down fugitive sex offenders—a wanted list of 10 “high profile” offenders complete with photographs.

Within a week of its release to the media and law enforcement agencies, more than half of those on the inaugural list were behind bars. Tips from the public played a role in at least two of the arrests.

“Obviously, we’re pleased with our initial success, but for every sex offender absconder we arrest, there is another one out there looking for victims,” said Special Crimes Commander **John Laird**. “We’re hopeful this effort will inspire law enforcement and the public to help us target these individuals.”

The list was developed in response to a recent series of incidents involving Gary Dale Cox, a sex offender fugitive who kidnapped several young girls while hiding from law enforcement authorities.

The “high profile” sex offenders selected meet several criteria. They had targeted children, were on some form of electronic monitoring and had fled from their parole obligations.

A Special Crimes investigator is specifically assigned to the offenders selected for the program. In addition, the list is published on the DPS Web site, [www.txdps.state.tx.us](http://www.txdps.state.tx.us), and is sent out to law enforcement across the state.

“We need the public’s assistance in locating these convicted sex offenders who prey on children—before they strike again,” said Col. **Thomas A. Davis Jr.**, director of the DPS.

Special Crimes personnel will periodically update the list to add new absconded sex offenders to replace the captured suspects. There also is discussion about adding serial rapists to the program.

Anyone who believes they have information on the whereabouts of any of these dangerous fugitives should immediately call their local law enforcement agency or Texas Crime Stoppers at 1-800-252-TIPS (8477). Citizens should never attempt to apprehend a fugitive themselves.

Dear Fellow Employee:

Another legislative session has come and gone. Thank you to all the DPSers who worked so hard to tell the DPS story to the Legislature. Thanks also to our Commissioners, who worked tirelessly during the session.

Several positive things came out of the session, among them:

- State employees will receive a pay raise this biennium of either \$100 per month, or 4 percent, whichever is larger. (Employees must be with the state for one year before the pay raise kicks in.)

- An increase in funding for new DPS vehicles that will allow us to replace patrol vehicles at lower mileage.

- We will begin building a law enforcement firing range on property the agency owns in Florence.

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The recent floods in Houston are a reminder that we all need to have a home emergency kit, packed and ready to go in case of a natural disaster. Visit the DEM Web site at [http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/dem/hurr\\_week\\_01\\_checklist.htm](http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/dem/hurr_week_01_checklist.htm) for a list of items you should include in your kit. It’s important to be prepared.

*Thomas A. Davis Jr.*

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## Awards

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Tr. **Alan P. Davidson**, HP McKinney, earned a Director's Citation for helping solve the hit-and-run fatality of a nine-year old Collin County boy. Davidson utilized the hypnosis skills of Ranger Sgt. **Lee Young**, McKinney, to elicit a more accurate description of the suspect vehicle from the only eyewitness to the tragedy—the victim's 10-year-old brother. Two years and 94 interviews later, a Collin County Grand Jury indicted a suspect in the case.

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## Short Shots

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### Troopers excel

Last year was a stellar year in drug interdiction for TLE troopers. In 2000, they seized narcotics valued at \$122.3 million while on normal patrol activities—compared with \$55.4 million in 1999. The 1,785 drug cases filed is the highest ever recorded by DPS troopers.

Also in 2000, troopers arrested nearly 31,000 drunk drivers, handed out 550,000 speeding citations, issued about 160,000 safety restraint tickets and provided assistance to 74,000 motorists.

### L&W news

June was a busy month for License & Weight troopers. During Roadcheck 2001, an annual nationwide truck safety crackdown, L&W personnel inspected 2,537 commercial vehicles during the three-day period.

June also marked the opening of DPS' newest and largest state-of-the-art truck inspection facility on I-45 near the Walker County line. Equipped with "weigh in motion" technology, the facility is a joint effort between DPS, TxDOT and

Walker County.

### SES awards

Tr. **Garry Parker**, SES Austin, walked away with a first place award for a multimedia DWI presentation at the annual 2001 Uniformed Safety Education Officers Workshop in Idaho.

Back in Texas, Lufkin SES Tr. **Greg Sanches** received the "Celebrating Excellence Award" from the Diboll Correctional Center.

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## Mile Markers

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### Promotions

#### Director's Staff

**Victor Joseph LaRocca III**, Tr. II, HP Beaumont to Sgt., Aircraft Lubbock.

#### CLE

**Stacy Mark Hohenberger**, Sgt./Inv., MVT Garland to Lt., MVT Arlington; **Justin Bonner Owen**, Sgt./Inv., MVT San Antonio to Lt., MVT McAllen; **Roger Dale Dixon**, Tr. II, L&W Del Rio to Sgt./Inv., Narcotics Eagle Pass; **Roman Gabriel Rodriguez**, Tr. II, Narcotics McAllen to Sgt./Inv., Narcotics Alpine;

**Marion Jean Gillespie**, Tr. II, HP Beaumont to Sgt./Inv., Narcotics Amarillo; **Charlie Booker, Jr.**, Tr. II, HP Houston to Sgt./Inv., Narcotics Amarillo; **Thomas Lee Williams**, Tr. II, HP Baytown to Sgt./Inv., Narcotics Alpine.

#### TLE

**John Randal LaRocque**, Sr. Cpl., L&W San Marcos to Sgt., Capitol Svc. Austin; **Maria G. Rodriguez**, Tr. II, L&W Devine to Sgt., L&W Eagle Pass; **Casey G. Goetz**, Cpl. III, HP Giddings to Sgt.,

HP Sherman; **Ray Paul Arndt Sr.**, Insp. III, Veh. Insp. Humble to Supv., Veh. Insp. Austin.

### Retirements

**Albert Wayne Fisher**, Tr. V, L&W Corsicana, 33 yrs., 1 mo.; **Robert Edward Rankin**, Sgt., HP Decatur, 28 yrs., 6 mos., 3 days; **James Sheldon Jones**, Cpl. V, L&W Paris, 28 yrs., 6 mos., 3 days;

**Tony Rex Bynum**, Tr. V, L&W Mount Pleasant, 28 yrs., 6 mos., 3 days; **Doyle Roy Blair**, Tr. V, HP Robert Lee, 27 yrs., 3 mos., 26 days; **Walter Russell Stanfield**, Cpl. V, HP Marshall, 26 yrs., 3 mos., 20 days;

**Lowell James Howard**, Tr. V, HP El Campo, 24 yrs., 8 mos., 17 days; **Oliver Lee King**, Cpl. V, HP Groesbeck, 23 yrs., 5 mos., 25 days;

**Harlene Ann Minnix**, Field Lab. Secr., Crime Lab. Garland, 10 yrs., 5 mos., 15 days; **Walter Ray Degner**, Lt., MVT Arlington, 31 yrs., 6 mos., 9 days; **Santiago Adame Robles**, Lt., MVT McAllen, 30 yrs., 4 mos., 16 days; **Arturo Munoz Jr.**, Tr. IV, L&W Eagle Pass, 22 yrs., 3 mos., 21 days.

### Deaths

**Elwerd Manard Rogers**, HP Midland (Jan. 1957-Nov. 1972) died April 27, 2001.



## On the mend...

*Best wishes for a speedy recovery from line-of-duty injuries go to:*

**Tr. Randy Loftin**, HP Tyler  
**Tr. Lonnie Davis**, HP Houston  
**Linda Swails**, DL Examiner  
Carrollton

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**Tr. Barry Evans**, HP Tyler, is back on light duty after a May collision during a pursuit.